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Domestic Violence Counts Utah Summary

On September 17, 2013, 17 out of 17 (100%), of identified local domestic violence programs in Utah participated in the 2013 National Census of Domestic Violence Services.

848 Victims Served in One Day

614 domestic violence victims (387 children and 227 adults) found refuge in emergency shelters or transitional housing provided by local domestic violence programs.

234 adults and children received non-residential assistance and services, including counseling, legal advocacy, and children's support groups.

This chart shows the percentage of programs that provided the following services on the Census Day.

Services Provided by Local Programs:	Sept. 17
Individual Support or Advocacy	100%
Emergency Shelter	94%
Children's Support or Advocacy	82%
Transitional Housing	65%
Bilingual Advocacy	65%
Group Support or Advocacy	59%
Court/Legal Accompaniment/Advocacy	53%
Transportation	53%

190 Hotline Calls Answered

Domestic violence hotlines are a lifeline for victims in danger, providing support, information, safety planning, and resources. In the 24-hour survey period, domestic violence programs answered more than 8 hotline calls every hour.

86 Educated in Prevention and Education Trainings

On the survey day, 86 individuals in communities across Utah attended 10 training sessions provided by local domestic violence programs, gaining much needed information on domestic violence prevention and early intervention.

130 Unmet Requests for Services in One Day, of Which 86% (112) Were for Housing

Victims made more than 1,300 requests for services, including emergency shelter, transitional housing, and nonresidential services, that could not be provided because programs did not have the resources to provide these services. The most frequently requested non-residential service that couldn't be provided was housing advocacy, counseling, transportation, and financial assistance.

Impact of Unmet Requests for Help

Domestic violence programs do not always know what happens when a survivor courageously calls a stranger to ask for a bed or other help and the services aren't available however 59% of programs report that victims are forced to return to their abuser, 24% report that victims become homeless, and 12% report that the families are forced to live in their cars.

Cause of Unmet Requests for Help

- 29% reported reduced government funding.
- 18% reported not enough available staff.
- 18% reported private funding cuts.
- 6% reported reduced individual donations.

Across Utah 23 (7%) staff positions were eliminated in the past year and most of these positions were direct services, such as shelter or legal advocates, so there were fewer advocates to answer calls for help.

A woman currently in shelter has had difficulty finding employment since she has no recent work history. She recently decided to go back to school to get some job training. She found a college that accepted her and is providing financial aid so she and her two daughters can get into transitional housing. She is still looking for part-time work, but for the first time in many, many years is feeling good about the future.

— Advocate

